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For Immediate Release: January 9, 2012
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Fire Sprinklers Save Lunenburg Condo and Dog

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Lunenburg Fire Chief Scott Glennly said a single fire sprinkler head controlled the fire in a condominium this morning at 69 Royal Fern Drive in Lunenburg. The fire started in the living room couch with a Christmas tree right next to it. Only one of the four sprinkler heads in the living room activated and controlled the fire. The Christmas tree, probably very dry by now, was not involved in the fire.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "This demonstrates the reason why sprinklers are such a valuable tool for life safety and protection people's homes." No one was home in the condominium where the fire started and firefighters were able to rescue a dog trapped inside. People were home in two other apartments, including a grandmother watching a toddler. The sprinklers prevented the fire spreading to other units.

Chief Glennly said, "The million dollar building suffered an estimated \$25,000 in damage and no one is displaced. As fast as we were able to get there, the fire sprinkler was faster and had the fire under control frankly before we even left the station."

Jon Jones, a Lunenburg resident and chairman of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations said, "Opponents to residential sprinklers often say that newer buildings don't have fires or that smoke alarms are adequate fire protection. This building was built in the 1980s and the fire would have progressed significantly and quickly without sprinklers, impacting the people in the other condos and their homes and possessions and pets." He added, "This underscores how important it is for local jurisdictions to have the flexibility to require residential sprinklers where they think they are needed."

Chief Glennly said, "It is absolutely amazing that the Christmas tree was never involved in this fire and that everyone got out safely. What is even more amazing is that everyone can sleep here tonight. This fire demonstrates the need for residential fire sprinklers in every new home."

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